

Denali Commission Broadband Program

Alaska Broadband Task Force – Policy Committee
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DENALI COMMISSION

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Denali Commission Investment Strategy

- **Mission**

- Deliver services of Federal Government cost-effectively to promote economic development with a focus on rural infrastructure development

- **Broad Authority**

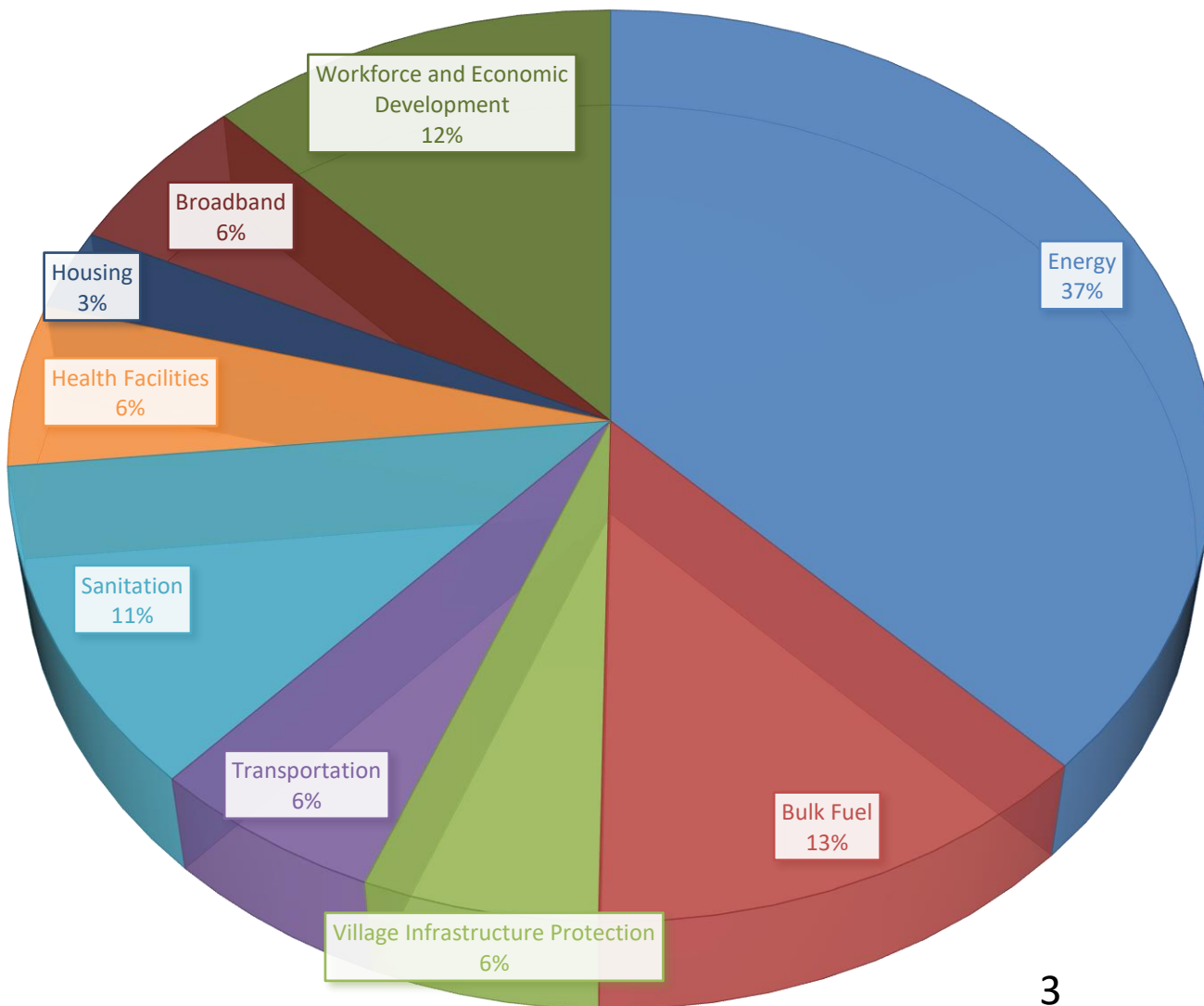
- Allows flexibility to fill *Market Gap* for *Social Good*

- **Commission Special Tools :**

1. MAP21 transfer authority
2. Non-federal cost share
3. No-year funds



DENALI COMMISSION – FFY21 WORKPLAN





New Funding Possibility?

- **Current version of Federal Infrastructure Bill**
 - \$75 million for Denali Commission
 - \$65 billion for Broadband
 - \$? new tribal funding
 - \$? other

How to best respond to uncertain and potentially large broadband investments?



Coordination Efforts

- **Map21 Transfer**
 - DOJ, USFS, DOE, HUD, NOAA, USACE, USDA
- **Denali Coordination Effort**
 - Semi-regular meetings with Funding Agencies and Facilitators to improve program implementation
 - Identifying challenges, develop solutions
- **Programmatic**
 - Working with applicants, stakeholders
 - Broadband Program



Broadband Program

- **Alaska Broadband Plan Update – [Link](#)**
 - Worked with Governors Office, Commerce
 - Assured full points to USDA Reconnect-2
 - \$80mm funding to 7 Alaska ISPs
 - Aleutian Fiber, EDA Mapping Project *attempt*
- **FCC Tribal Spectrum Licenses, 2.5ghz**
 - 95% of Alaska, 185 tribes submitted applications
- **USDA Community Connect**
 - Directly supported 5 applications, 8 total from Alaska
- **NTIA Tribal Broadband Grant**



NTIA Tribal Broadband Grants

- **Regional Planning Grants**
- **Regional Tribal Engagement**
 - Meetings with 12 ANC AND 12 Nonprofits
 - Coordination, awareness, challenges, solutions
 - Consensus that coordination and planning are critical
 - Statewide coordination not feasible in time available
 - DCRA, Statewide data collection, sharing
 - Closing gap between regional and local
 - Alaska Tribal Administrators Association



Alaska Tribal Administrators Association

- **Mission to grow tribal capacity**
- **Networking statewide to local needs**
- **Awareness of resources, programs, information**
- **Resolution of support for application to NTIA**
 - Prioritize tribal sovereignty, local determination
 - Hoped to have solution for every tribe with unaffordable internet
 - Proving difficult at statewide level



Challenges Identified

- **Capacity Building to Understand Complex Network Solutions**
 - Until recently most programs available to ISPs
 - Non-technical entities – tribes, communities, nonprofits need organized, statewide support
- **Statewide Strategy, Planning**
 - Access to readily available data
 - Existing and needed network capacity
 - Affordability



Challenges Identified

- **Statewide Strategy, Planning**
 - Responsible parties, not clearly identified
 - Identify roles of tribes, local government, regional, statewide, non-profits, funders, industry, etc.
 - Public vs Private assets
 - Identifying gap between market and social gap
 - Large geography, low-population
 - Defining “affordable internet” and “capacity”



Beyond Local

- **Today, Alaska is at the “end of the line”**
 - Marine cables and one terrestrial cable
- **This is not true for transfer of real things**
 - Air and Ship Cargo (Great Ocean Route)
- **At the center of global data transfer, price of end-user data would drop precipitously**
 - Not without risks or challenges
 - But maybe the dynamic can change
 - Past performance is no indication of future success



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Thank you

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